

REMARKS

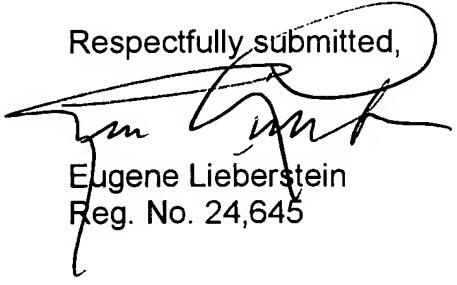
The rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Gotou (USP 5,982,118) and the rejection of claims 5 and 16 under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Otani (USP 4,977,356) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 5 and 16 have been cancelled and accordingly the rejection thereof is moot.

Claims 2 and 6 have been rewritten as independent claims to include all of the subject matter of the claims upon which they depend. The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-4 and 6-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2-4 and 6-15 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-4 and 6-15 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 6/9/05.



Date: 6/9/05